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2. Date of repair. 6.12.34
3. Initials of Referencer. G
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Madura Dist.

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Major Dalrymple
Commanding at
Dindigul

6/37

Sir,

It being Necessary for the recovery of Balances due from Some of the Polygars of this District that a force of about 2 Companies of Sepoys with a field piece should be drawn out to a Station at Some little distance from the Fort I have to request you will be pleased to Order that force to be so Stationed as Soon as it may be practicable —

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your Mt. Ob. St.
(Sd.) A. McC[illegible]

Dindigul
4th. May 1794.

Haliburton Esqr.
Actg President &ca. Members of the
Board of Revenue

Fort St. George

Gentlemen,

The Poligars who were Summoned to Attend at Dindigul according to your Orders under date the 16th. March last having refused to Comply with the Summons Sent to them and as a Considerable Balance is Still Owing by them, Notwithstanding the payment of part of the Arrear which was the Object of the above Order, I thought it Necessary to induce them to pay by Appearance of a Military force & in Consequence addressed a letter on the Subject to the Commanding Officer of Dindigul Copy of Which is inclosed — But yesterday having Received your Letter of the

31th

30th Ult.o respecting the employment of Regular Troops by Collectors, I requested the Commanding Officer to Countermand the Orders for the March of the Troops yet out of the Garrison

I would however take the liberty to recommend that a Force equal to that above=mentioned should be Ordered to Move towards the Pollams, and I have little doubt such Movement would recover almost the Whole of the Balances in the Space of 20 days.

I have the Honor to be

Dindigul
5th May 1794

Gentlemen
Your Mo. Obt. Se.
(Sd.) A. M[illegible]

B. Haliburton Esqr.
Actg. President & Members of the
Board of Revenue

Fort St. George

Gentlemen,

Mr. Macleod having with your permission proceeded to the Sea Coast for the benefit of his health, I beg leave to inform you that I have received Charge of this District.

On the 4th instant I find that Mr. Macleod made an Application to the Commandt. of the Garrison, & requested that a force equal to two Companies of Sepoys with a Field piece might be drawn out to a Station at some little distance from the Fort for the purpose of Assisting in the recovery of the balances due from the Poligars, & on the 5th instant it

appears

appears that in Consequence of a Letter from your Board respecting the Employment of regular Troops, he begged of the Officer to Countermand the Order he had issued for the March of the Troops—

The last kist for the Current Year from the Whole of the Poligars fell due on the 30th of last Month and the balance unpaid at this time Amounts to Ch. 37185.3.20 the balance due on Account of Fasly 1202 is 6023.6— and on account of 1201 — Colly Ch. 2875.3.20. which Sums added together Amount to Ch. 46084.3.10.

I have no hesitation in Recom=
=mending that Troops Should be employed for the Recovery of the balances, but the Object of this address is to recommend that Government will be pleased to Authorize the Commandant of Dindigul to furnish a Force for the purpose of sequestering the Pollum held by Poojary Naigue of Deedanapetty, who

Who is in Arrear three fourths of his Kists due the last, & the Whole the present year. I should be very slow in recommending the adoption of this strong Measure, but I see no alternative for the Poligar Not only refuses to liquidate his balances, but pertinaciously declines having any Communication with those Who have been sent to him to demand payment of his debt.

I have only to add that I foresee the best Consequences from your early Con=currence with this recommendation.

I have the honor to be

Dindigul
13th May 1794

Gentlemen

Your &c

(Sd.) J.W.

Asst. Collr.

To David Haliburton Esqr

Acting President &c Members of the Board of Revenue

Gentlemen Fort St George

A Man named Lingum belonging to the Village of Attoor has Murdered his Wife & Confesses the fact he urges in his defence that he had detected her in being guilty of criminal Connection with other Men, which fact has been proved to me by incontrovertible evidence;—Until I am made Acquainted with your pleasure I shall keep him at hard labour on the public roads about Dindigul

I have the honor to be

Dindigul Your Most obt humble Sert

16th May 1794 (Signed) J.W.

To William Harington Esqr.

Secretary to the Board of Revenue

Fort St George

Sir

Herewith I beg leave to transmit a Bill drawn by the Paymaster at Madura on the Paymaster General in favour of the Board of revenue, for Star Pagodas three Thousand or P. N Pgs 3444 " 6. at 114 - 11 ℘ Cent. Star Pagodas dated the 11th instant

Dindegal
19th May 1794

I am Sir
your most obedt Servt
(Signed) J.W.

To Lieut. Geekie

Adjutant of the 3d. Regt. of Cavalry

Sir, Tachinore

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 20th. Instant addressed to Mr. Macleod Who is at the Sea Coast for the benefit of his health. —

I find upon inquiry, that Yalmuny where the trooper you speak of has been plundered is near thirty Miles from the Borders of this district, a Village which is Surrounded by the Aniore & other Colleries appertaining to the Madura Province, consequently I have reason to suppose that those people, & not the Dindigul Poligars have been guilty of the Enormity: — I shall use every possible Endeavour known, to ascertain the fact, & will make known to you the result of my inquiry.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your very Obedt. Servt.

(Sd.) J.W.

Asistt. Collr.

Dindigul

24th. May 1794

David Haliburton Esqr.
Actg. President & the Members of the
Board of Revenue

Fort St. George

Gentlemen,

I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of your Letters dated the 18th and 19th instant to both of which I have now the honor to reply. — The former inclosing "Copy of an Abstract from the Secret Committee "of the Court of Directors" & containing your instructions in consequence I have to inform you, that I have taken what I conceive to be the most effectual measures to make known the pleasure of the Committee throughout this district, & have held out as you direct every reasonable encouragement to the Inhabitants to promote the Cultivation of the Sugar Cane. —

I think it necessary, however, to mention to you that I have very little Expectation

that

that any increase in the Cultivation of the Cane in the Dindigul province will turn to good Account.— The quantity at present Cultivated is very Small indeed, & the quality of the Sugar made from it very bad:— the price also is high, for the Average state at Which the Article is Sold in the Most parts of the District is five Madras fanams ℔ Viss, whereas at the Presidency from every information I have been able to obtain the Price does not exceed four fanams ℔ Viss:— this Circum-stance considered together with the Expence of Carriage to the Nearest Seaport, which is upwards of One hundred Miles from Dindigul, I think will warrant the above Observation.—

In answer to your Letter of the 19th Instant I beg leave to inform you that Mr. Macleod in the hurry of his departure to the Coast omitted to Make over to Me his Diaries, & I am therefore not well able to afford you the information you require regarding the Steps taken in Consequence of your

instructions

Sugar

Wetbait

-ctions of the 16th March for Summoning the Poligars to Dindigul" — I believe however that Not one of them has attended at the Cutcherry Since the date of your Letter on the subject. — This being the Case I have in Obedience to your instructions issued an Order requiring the Attendance of all the Poligars at the Dindigul Cutcherry, & have taken upon Myself to add to the Order a Cowle of Protection to each — even this measure I am well Convinced will be of no avail in inducing them to obey the Order, for I have ascertained from the best Authority in the district that, with the Exception of three, None of them have ever Attended at the Cutcherry: I shall have the honor of reporting to you on this Subject after a sufficient time has elapsed for the receipt of the Poligars Answers to the Orders I issued on this day. —

With respect to Mr. Macleod's Settlement for the present Fusly, I am apprehensive that

that any information I could afford you would be unsatisfactory: I am not in possession at present of the Necessary documents, so as to Arrive with any degree of Correctness at a perfect knowledge of the Settlement. The Collector's Arrangements for the year were made long before I returned to Dindigul from Nozeed, & my Neglect (for which I beg your Excuse) in not having recieved Charge of his Diaries and other papers relative to the Subject, renders Me incapable of obeying your Commands, untill I hear from Mr Macleod to Whom I have written & have requested him to furnish Me without delay with the required Materials.

I have the honor to be
Gentlemen
Your Most Obed^t Hble Ser^t
(Sd.) J.W.
Assist. Collr.

Dindigul
25th May 1794.

14

To Major Dalrymple
Commanding
Dindigul.

Sir,

I beg the favor of you to Strengthen the Cutcherry guard with thirty Sepoys. – I have had information that a Man named Vencata Sawmy Naigue, who Styles himself Rajah of Dindigul, has a diabolical Scheme in Agitation, & I have therefore thought it necessary to Confine his person closely. I will make known to you the particular Circumstances when I have the pleasure of Seeing you. – The Additional guard will not be required ~~[illegible]~~ after tomorrow at 3 o'Clock. –

I have the honor to be your

Dindigul
25th May 1794.

(Sd.) J.W.
Whitt Coll.

To David Haliburton Esqr
Actg Presidt &c. Members of the Board
of Revenue

Fort St George

Gentlemen,

I beg leave to inform you that in Consequence of the discovery Conduct of a Most atrocious, and black Nature, I have thought it necessary to Confine in Irons on the top of the Rock a Man Named Vencatasawmy Naique, who styles himself Rajah of Dindegul; — I shall have the honor to Report to you particularly on the Subject by the Tapal of Tomorrow, in the Mean time it may be proper to mention that previous to my taking this step I requested of Major Dalrymple & Captn Oliver to be present at the Depositions given in by Vencatasawmy's Accusers & they are of opinion that the Measure was not only proper but absolutely Necessary.

I am Gentlemen
your most Obt Servt
(Signed) J.W.

Dindegul
26 May 1794

To David Haliburton Esqr.
Actg Presid.t & ca. Members of the
Board of Revenue

Fort St. George

Gentlemen,

I had the honor to inform you by the Tappal of Yesterday that I had been under the Necessity of Confining the person of Vincatta Sawmy Naigue, & I now beg leave to State my Reasons for having done so.

On the Evening of the 24.th the Renter Gopal Kistna, Comara Pilly and his Son Appagee two of the late Renters, & Appoo Moodelier the Interpreter Came to Me in a body and informed Me that Vincata Sawmy had employed people to put them to death; — I desired them to give Me the reason they had for Supposing so;

they then produced a Man named Gopaul who Confessed that he had been employed not only for that purpose, but had on various occasions assisted in plundering & burning Villages in the Dindigul district by the Orders of his Master. —

This information induced Me to write imme=diately to Vincata Sawmy Naigue who was in at Collam some Miles distant requiring his Attendance at the Cutcherry, & to prevent his entertaining any Suspicion that his black Schemes had been discovered I addressed him in a Complimentary Manner, & sent the Letter by a Common peon: — on the following day he came Came to Me Accompanied by about thirty people Armed with Pikes: I immediately brought before him, his Servant Gopal (Who though half dead with Apprehension) related almost Verbatim, the Circumstances with Which he had made me acquainted yesterday Evening: — The brother in law of Vincata Sawmy was with him, and upon being asked some questions

Relative

relative to the subject, he voluntarily deposed what in Substance amounted to the deposition given by Gopal, except with regard to the intended Murders.

I no longer hesitated to Confine Vincata Sawmy, & requested of the Commanding Officer of the Garrison, to Strengthen the Cutcherry Guard, untill the following day with thirty Sepoys, which he lost no time in doing, & I then informed Vincata Sawmy that he must remain a prisoner at the Cutcherry untill a Minute investigation of the particular Circumstances brought forward against him could be gone into.

In Order that my Judgement Might be assisted by the Opinions of others and previous to my taking any further Steps in this business, I waited upon Major Dalrymple, & Captain Oliver, and after

imparting

imparting to them what had been Communicated to me, I begged the favor of them to be present during the time that I took the depositions of Gopal, & Sawmy Naiguer the brother in law: these Gentlemen obligingly Complyed with my request, & very decidedly Concurred in my Sentiments as to the propriety of Confining Vincota Sawmy Naiguer in Irons on the top of the Dindigul Rock:— he was immediately sent thither, & put in Irons but it having been since represented to me that he could not without losing his Cast take any food while in fetters, I directed them to be struck off—

The Deposition of Gopal corroborated by that, Sawmy Naig clearly go to prove that the frequent robberies which have lately Committed in Dindigul & its Vicinity were at the instigation of Vincota Sawmy,— and although it would be very difficult

difficult, perhaps impossible to bring to positive proof the Assertions regarding the intended Murders, yet the Voluntary Confession of Gopal that he had been the person actually employed for the purpose, inclines me to believe him. —

Both the depositions are entered at length in the Proceedings of this Cutcherry in the Malabar & English languages and the Substance of each is entered in my Diary.

I beg the favor of your instructions as to the line I am to observe in future with Vincata Sawmy Naigue, & have the honor to be

Gentlemen

Your Mo. Ob. Hble Servt

Dindigul
27th May 1794.

Sd/ J.M.

Alexr. McLeod

To Wm. Harington Esqr.
Secy. to the Bd. of Revenue
Fort St. George

Sir,

I herewith transmit a Diary of my proceedings in this District from the 9th. the day of the Collector's departure to the Sea Coast, to the 31st. Ulto.

I am Sir
Your Mt. Ob. Hble. St.
Dindegul
1st. June 1794
Sd. J.W.
Asst. to the Collr.

To Robt. Clerk Esqr.
Secretary
Fort St. George

Sir,

Herewith I beg leave to transmit the Estimate of the Probable Receipts & Disbursements of this District for this Month. —

I am
Sir &c. (Sd.) J.W.
Asst. Collr.
Dindegul
5th. June 1794.

To Lionel Place Esqr
At. to the Bd of Re

Fort St George

Sir

Herewith I beg leave to transmit the Account of Demand Collection & Balance for last Month. —

I am
Sir
Yours
(Sd) J.W.
Asst. Colr

Dindigul
5th June 1794

To Lionel Place Esqr
A. Bd. Re

Fort St George

Sir

Herewith I transmit the Genl. Abstract Statement of the Collections & disbursements of this District for 1793/94. and a Comparison between the Estimates of 1794/95. —

I am
Sir
Yrs
(Sd.) J.W.
Asst. Collr

Dindigul
5th June 1794

To Hugh Vaughan Esqr

Paymaster &c. at Madura

Sir

I have the honor to Acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th Instant & in reply to the postscript of it, I beg leave to inform you that on the 22 of may I advanced to your Agent at this place P. N P. 680. on the 6th of June P. N P. 459. 3. 20 & on the 7th June P. N P. 5175. 7. 20. the three Sums making in S P. 5500, the exact amount as required by him. —

I have no doubt of being able to answer the full Amount of your Estimate Vizt. 8244. Pag) for your July disbursements. —

It will be very accommodating & Satisfactory to me, if you can Conveniently furnish me with your indent for Cash for the disbursements of your office on or before the 25th of every month, as the Revenue Board are extremely explicit, & pointed in their orders regarding the regular remittance of the Collections to the Presidency.

I have the honor to be

your most obedt

Dindigul

8. June 1794 –

To David Haliburton Esqr

acting President & ye Members of the Board of Rev.

Fort St George

Gentlemen

It was not without great difficulty that I have been able to procure the old Accounts of a part of the Vatalagunta Talook from the Curnoplies of that Talook I have now the honor to inclose Translation of them — they commence with the year 1761.

I have also obtained ten Years Accounts of part of the Cusbah Talook Commencing 1771 — also one Year Accounts of part of Parialoleum for 1771 —

Translation of these are also inclosed here-with interspersed with such Remarks as I thought would be necessary & accompanied by a Comparative Statement relative to some part of them —

I have the honor to be

Dindegul

G. &c

12 May 1794

(signed) A Macleod

Collr

To David Haliburton Esqr.
Acting President & Members of the Board of Rev.
Fort St George

Gentlemen

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3d Inst. & I am happy in finding that you approve of the steps I have taken for summoning the Poligars to the Cusbah & confining the person of Vencatasamy Naynr. — the first step I took in Obedience to your orders although, as I informed you on the 25th Ult. I had no expectation of the Poligars compliance with the summons — the Event has proved that I was not mistaken in my conjecture for (as you will perceive is Regularly Stated in my Diary) they have to a man refused to attend — I take this occasion to repeat that I am well convinced unless some strong measures are taken, such as the Sequestration of one or more of the Poligarships which are most in arrear to the Company, that I have little hope of punctuality in the payment of the Revenue which should arise from the Pollums. —

To furnish you with the necessary materials for forming a correct opinion of the real state & value of the Circar part of this district, it appears to me absolutely necessary that I should myself visit every part of it: I shall do so, if you have no objection, and although I hardly think that I shall be able to obtain such information as I should wish to submit to your Consideration, before the commencement of Fusly 1204. yet I will use my best Exertions to effect the point —

The arrangements I deem it expedient to make previous to my departure from the Cusbah, & some arrear of

of business which I have to bring up will require about ten days, so that there will be time sufficient for me to receive your Approval or disapproval of my intention of going into the interior parts of the District before the expiration of that time ~~expect~~ expect to derive a double advantage from your concurrence with my Sentiments on the present occasion; — viz the information you have directed me to obtain regarding the State & Value of the Country, and from the favorable impression I I shall endeavour to leave on the minds of the Poligars through whose Countries necessarily pass in the prose-cution of my enquiry. —

As in this Country there are no Choultries or places to afford a traveller any convenience, it would be very accommodating & satisfactory to me if you could obtain the ~~Sanction [illegible]~~ sanction of Govern-ment for my being allowed to have tents furnished from the public Stores in the Garrison of Dindigul — this accommodation is more particularly necessary at this Season of the Year as the Monsoon from the Malabar Coast, of which we partake in this district has set in though as yet but partially —

I have the honor to be
Gentlemen
Your most Obed. Hble Servt

Dindigul
9th June 1794

(Signed) J. Wrangham
Asst. to the Collr

To Lionel Place Esqr
Accountant to the Board of Revenue

Sir Fort St George

Herewith I beg leave to transmit the Accounts of the District for the Month of April last —

I am Sir
Your Most Obed. St.
(Sd.) J. Strangham
Asst. to the Coll.

Dindigul
10th Jun 1794

To Lionel Place Esqr
Accountant to the Board of Revenue

Fort St George

Sir

Herewith I beg leave to transmit the Accounts of this District for last Month —

I am Sir
your most Obd. Hble St.

Dindegul
[illegible]th June 1794

(Signed) [illegible]

To Lionel Place Esqr.
Accountant to the Board of Revenue

Sir. Fort St. George

Herewith I beg leave to transmit the Accounts of this district for last month.

You will perceive in the Account Sadurwared extraordinary Charges for Stationary, I have been obliged to purchase so much for the use of the Office; —

Dindegul
16th June 1794.

I am Sir
Your most obedt Hble Servt
(Signed) J.W.

To David Haliburton Esqr. &c
Acting President & Members of the Board of Revenue
Fort St. George

Gentlemen. —

I have with minute Attention investigated the Charges brought forward against Vencatasawmy Naique & entertain no doubt of his Culpability. — I have the honor herewith to transmit the

the depositions of two Evidences Only Gopal a Servant of Vincatasamey & Saumey Naigue his brother in law & I regret that Notwithstanding the trouble I have taken to Obtain the Evidence of the Colleries who were employed with Gopal; My Endeavours have been Unsuccessful these people belong to the Madura Country.

I take the liberty to mention that the Uncommon tranquility of the Pettah & the Villages in the Vicinity of Dindigul since the Confinement of Vincatasamey Naigue carries conviction to my mind of the truth of the depositions Now transmitted, & I am well convinced if you allow me to keep him in Confinement for a Certain time, or to send him to Madras, that either Measure will Materially contribute to the peace & quietness of the District

As you must be well Acquainted with every particular regarding Vincatasawmy Naigue

first

for establishment in these provinces, of his Subsequent Career & of his very faulty Conduct when the Country last fell in to the hands of the Company, it would be Unnecessary for me to recapitulate those Circumstances. I must however remark that independent of what is stated in the depositions, I know him to be a man of a very dangerous & intriguing turn who has Surreptitiously obtained a considerable degree of influence Over the Minds of Several of the Poligars, & who, if allowed to remain in the district, might be the Occasion of much disturbance.

The family of Vincatasawmy Naig is very large, & living as he has hitherto done, on the bounty of the Poligars, he found no difficulty in Supporting it, being now in confinement, he has not the means of furnishing his people with the Necessaries of life:- I have therefore taken upon myself to allow him & his family ten fanams ℘ day for their Maintenance

untill

untill I am made acquainted with your pleasure

I take this Occasion to inform you, that I keep the person of Lingum still in confinement; & as I have not hitherto been able to Obtain any Satisfactory information, (except his own Confession) regarding the Murder of his wife, I shall defer giving you my final report of him, till I go to Attoor where I may possibly in person have it in my power to effect your wish.

I have the honor to be
Gentlemen
Your Most Obed.t Hble S.t
(Sign'd) J. W.
Ass.t Coll.r

Dindigul
19.th June 1794.

To Captain Oliver
Commanding Dindigul &c.

Sir

I had the pleasure to mention to you this morning that I had been directed by the Board of Revenue to proceed into the interior parts of this province for the purpose of ascertaining certain points with which they are anxious to become acquainted — I mentioned to you also that the Board had applied to Government for tents for my accommodation & had requested that they might be furnished me from the Stores of Dindigul, — I was sorry to learn from you that there were no Tents in the Stores, — the advanced period of the Fusly year renders it absolutely necessary that I should immediately commence upon my Enquiry & the delay of a reference to the presidency would be attended with very considerable inconvenience — Allow me to beg

the

the favor of you therefore to render me any assistance that may be in your power to procure Tents — I shall have Occasion for 1 Field Officers Tent for my own Accommodation or a Captains, it is of little consequence which: 1 Field Officers Tent to hold my Cutcherry in, 1 baggage & One Necessary Tent

I have the honor &ca.

Dindigul (Signed) J. W.

20th June 1790

To David Haliburton Esqre.
Acting President & Members
of the Board of Revenue
Fort St. George

Gentlemen

I have the honor to Acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant & you may be assured that I will use my best Endeavours for recovering the Balances due by the several

Poligars

Poligars: I have already taken Muchilkas from the Vakeels of most of the Poligars in which they have engaged to liquidate the arrear due from their Masters by the end of the present Fusly — I must add however that my hopes are not very sanguine of due Attention being paid to these Engagements. ——

if I required any thing to stimulate me to a due performance of my duty, the reliance you do me the favor to say you place on my Exertions for furnishing you with Correct information regarding the past & present State of the Country, would have that effect, & I trust that by the first day of the ensuing fusley. I shall have my report ready —

I shall take my departure for the Dindigul Valley tomorrow, without Tents, for I understand there are none, in the Stores of this Garrison, & shall trust

to

to Chance for Accommodation.

I think it Necessary to mention that my enquiry will probably Occasion a small addition to the Moyen Zabitah during the time I may be employed on it.

I have the honor &c.

Dindegul
24th June 1794.

(Sd.) J Wrangham
Assist. Collr

To William Harington Esqr
Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Fort St George

Sir
I herewith Transmit a Diary of my Proceedings in this District from the 1st to the 30th Ulto

I am Sir
Your most obedt Ser

Periacolum
1 July 1794

(Signed) JW.
Assist to the Collr

To Lionel Place Esqr

Accountant to the Board of Revenue

Fort St. George

Sir

Herewith I beg leave to transmit the Account of Demand Collection & Balance for last Month —

I am Sir Yours &c

Sea Custom in the Dindigul district (Sd.) J.W.
5th. July 1794. Aptd. Collr.

To Robt. Clerk Esqr.

Secy

Fort St. George

Sir

Herewith I beg leave to transmit the Estimate of the Probable Receipts of

& Disbursements of this District for this Month.

I am Sir

Your &c.

Periacolum with the Dindigul District

5th July 1796.

(Signd.) J. H.

Asstt. Collr.

To David Halliburton Esqr.

Actg. Presidt. &c. Members of the Board of Revenue

Fort St. George

Gentlemen,

I have recd. Mr. Secretary Harington's letter of the 1st. instt. wherein he informs me, that you are willing to allow a small addition the Mozer Zabitah of this District during the time I may be employed upon my present inquiry, but that you wish to be furnished with a Statement of the proposed Increase of Expense. —

In my address of the 24th. Ulto. I only mentioned that there was a probability of an Increase of Expense, but there has not been any. —

I am Gentn.

Your &c.

Periacolum

50 Miles from Dindigul

(Sd.) J. H. Asst. C.

To Mr. H. Vaughan
Paymr. — Madura —

Sir,

I have received your letters of the 5th instant in reply to which I beg leave to inform you that I have little doubt of being able to supply the sums you require for your August disbursements.

I have paid into your agents hands at this place on this day Star Pagodas 8244 (Eight thousand two hundred & forty four) for which I beg the favor of you to send me a bill on the Military Paymaster General —

I have the honor
Sir
Your most Obt. —

Dindigul
10th July
1794

(Signed) J.W.
Asst. Collector

To David Haliburton Esqre
&
Acting President & Members
of the Board of Revenue
Fort St George

Gentlemen

The leases for the farm of the Circar lands of this district having expired, I have this day placed the Country under Aumanee Management & have now the honor to submit to your consideration (No 1) a List of Servants which I deem indispensably necessary to employ together with (No 2) a Comparison between the List of Servants employed during the period the Country was in aumanee the last year & the present proposed Establishment.

I have with much attention endeavoured to ascertain if the establishment could be reduced lower, but I think that with propriety, it cannot: — I have indeed experienced some difficulty in making the reduction which now I have done from the former Establishment. —

When I am favored with your Sentiments regarding the present proposed Establishment I shall have the honor to transmit a List with the Names of each person employed.

I take this Occasion to inform you that I returned from the Valley to Dindigul on the 11th instant & am now employed in ascertaining the present & past state of the Cumbah Talook, & I hope in a few days to be able to transmit my report on the whole of the Circar lands of this province.

I have the honor to be
Gentlemen
your most Obed.t
humble Servant

Dindigul
13th July 1794

(Signed) J. R.
Asst. Coll.r

To David Haliburton Esqr
Actg Presidt & Members of the Board of Revent

Fort St George

Gentlemen

I have received your directions through Mr Harington dated the 20th instant Enclosing Copy of the Proceedings of your Board under date the 17th instt in reply to which I have no hesitation in saying that I think it is not possible to ascertain the real Value of the Pollams in this District without dispossessing the Poligars, & that the Ascertainment of most of the points specified in the form you transmitted to this Cutchery, is equally impossible.

I will take the liberty of stating as briefly as I can my reasons for offering the above opinion. The Poligars of this District (twenty four in number) are almost beyond belief, timid, suspicious, & jealous. They ever hold in remembrance the oppression they experienced during the Moorish Government, for the space of near fifty years & their prejudices in consequence, are now unconquerable:—

the

interference in their interior Management, the most trivial circumstance of innovation upon the privileges of any one of them, however unintentional is immediately considered as the Cause of the whole, & is accordingly taken up. —

To ascertain with any degree of exactitude the points specified in the form, it certainly would be necessary to depute persons in whom confidence could be placed to make the requisite enquiries. The persons so deputed could not make their reports with propriety upon oral information, & they could gain no other — the Poligars would upon the appearance of these Persons in my Opinion, take alarm & retire to the Hills, — the Inhabitants of their Pollams would be forced to fly. Cultivation, of course, would cease, the Revenues be impaired, & ultimately the Enquiry (considered as an innovation) would be held out an Excuse for the non-performance of their Engagements with the Company. —

I have considered it my duty

their

thus early to make known to you my Sentiments
regarding the Poligars, & my Opinion of the
efficacy of endeavouring to comply with your
Orders:— I beg to Assure you however, that
Nothing shall be left undone on my part
to gain every information regarding the Pollams
that may be satisfactory to you, and
beneficial to the Company.— In the report
which I have been for some days past
drawing out on the state of this district,
it is my intention to state more fully my
Sentiments on the Subject of the Tributaries
and to recommend such Measures as appear
to me Necessary for the better Government
of them.—

Indisposition contracted during
my late Journey among the Hills, has
since my return rendered me incapable of
arranging my ideas so as to connect them
to with Satisfaction to myself:—
I take this Opportunity to inform you
however that the Accounts of the district
since it fell into the Company's possession
are finished:— the Causes for the decrease
in the Revenue have been ascertained &
Nothing remains to delay the transmission
of

of the report but my incapacity, on account of sickness to draw it up correctly —

I have the honor to be
Gentlemen
Your most Obed.t Hble Ser.t
(Sig.d) J. W.
Asst Collr.

Dindigul —
25th July 1791 —

To Lieutenant Heachberry —
Commanding
at
Manapar

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter dated the 27th Inst. & shall lose no time in making the necessary enquiries into the particulars of what you have done me the favor to communicate — should it appear that Vala Condum Naique has been Guilty of the enormity alledged, by Luchea Naique, against him I will not only use every endeavour to see full restitution made of the Cattle & property plundered, but I will impose a fine on the Polegar to deter him from similar practices in future. —

I shall make every necessary

enquiry

enquiry also in to the truth of Sawmy Naigue's Allegation against Verapatchy, although I confess to you that certain Circumstances render me slow of belief as to the Ramgherry Polygars Assertions.

I have the honor to be
Sir
your very Obed^t. hum^ble Servt.

Dindigul
29th. July 1794

(Signed) J. W.
Asst. Coll^r.

To William Harington Esqre

Secry. to the Board of Revenue

Fort St. George

Sir,

Herewith I beg leave to transmit two Bills drawn by the Paymaster at Madura on the Paymaster General in favor of the Board of Revenue as follows.

7th June 1794 . . Star Pagodas 5500 . . .
10th July do — do . . . . 6465 . 30 . 37

Dendigul
29th July 1794

I am
Sir
Your most Obedt. Hble Servt.
(Signed) J. W.
Asst. Collr.

To David Haliburton Esqre.
(C) Acting President &c^a. Members of the
Board of Revenue
Fort St. George

Gentlemen,

I have the honor to transmit, to you the result of my enquiries on the past & present state of this District. I have endeavoured to obtain the best information & I believe that what I have received, may be depended upon — at least in most instances.

In Numbers 1. 2. 3. & 4. I have detailed the amount of Nett Collections in Money & Grain from each Talook of the Circar Lands, an Account of which I took from the Naut Curnums of the Villages: — & 5. is an Abstract Account of the Sums Collected from each Talook annually since the Company took possession of the district.

To make this Narrative as concise, clear, & Comprehensive as I am able, & to save you the trouble of reference to a mass of voluminous papers, I shall speak of each Talook separately & introduce such remarks as may be necessary as to elucidate the causes of decrease in the Collections since the reversion of the district to the Company.

with &c.

Authority to simplify this I shall draw a Short Comparison between the Gross amount Collected in Fusly 1199 the year before it was subdued & 1201 the second year after its reduction

To draw the Comparison between 1199 & 1200 Might occasion some Confusion because in the Accounts of 1200 Sums are stated for Sales upon Grain, Cattle, Sheep &c. which were left behind by the Enemy & disposed of as Circar property —

Cudpah

The accounts of 1199 state the Collections from this Talook

	Ch. f.
Poonjah	18725 —
Nunjah 2566 Cull. of Paddy — C 7½ f. Pr Cullom	1792 —
Sayer	2600 —
	23.117 —
In 1201	18.278 —
Decrease	4839 —

The Cause of which is accounted for in the following manner

Demands were made by Certain Poligars for the restoration of Villages Seized by Syed Saib, which they Claimed as their property; the justice of their Claims was enquired into

& the Undermentioned were restored to them Viz.t

To Palamoottoo Naigue the Village of Ramnadpoor which yields annually a Revenue of ... Chs 350

To Gotup Naigue, Sital putty & Pillanattum 950

To Amra Naigue, Allamaratapully ... 200

Cavelgar or Watching fees of this Talook received by Syed Saib, whose own People Guarded the property of the Inh.ts } 700

Loss Sustained on Account of the reduction of Tax in July 1199, 16½ f.s were received Hooly, in 1201 Jun.e 13 } 1000

Estimated Loss Occasioned by the depredation of Collerie & want of rain } 1639

4839

The following remarks will hold good upon the diminution of the land Tax in every Talook. — After Consulting the Accounts of every late date, & Comparing them with those of Subsequent dates, the Moorish Appropri of Meer Saib in part & afterwards of Syed Saib appears but too evident :— I will particularize One instance — In the Cusbah, the Taxes on Puttoo built lands, was raised from 9 Colly fanams Odd Cash, 616 :— there is no doubt but that

some Augmentation Might have been Made, & the Inhabitants could have well borne the Additional Assessment, but the abovementioned was too enormous. As far as I can Judge the Inhabitants of this district enjoy their priviledges & are at present as happy as those in Most Others, & I think it would be an erroneous System, to hold out a temporary larger Revenue to the Eye of Government, which certainly would be of no Lasting Profit, because, anything beyond the proper Assessment would Ultimately hurt the population consequently the improvement of the Country.

Vatala Coondum Talook

July 1199. Collected — Poonjah		Cht. F.
		5000
Do. Nunjah 15500 Cullm. of Paddy @ 7 F. p. Cullom	}	10850
		15850
Do. 1201. Collected		13345 . 8/2
	Decrease	2504 . 1/2

which

which is Accounted for thus, Enams to the Pagodas & Bramines, Cauelgar fees & Shoundrum	Chs. 1100	6
Reduction in the land Tax 16½ 13 pr	300	
Estimated loss sustained by the incursions of Colleries and want of rain	1102	1½
	2502	1½

Parra Colum Talook

Fusly 1199 Collected Poonjah	8500	
Do. Nunjah 30000 cullams of Paddy Chs. [illegible] Cullam	21000	
	29500	
1201 Collected	13566	8 30/32
Increase	15933	1 23/32

Accounted for thus

Enams to the Pagodas cull. 2500 Paddy	1750
Do. to the Bramines together with Cauelgar fees & Shoundrum	1750
Reduction in the land Tax	400
	3900

	Ch.^s^ / 3900
Loss on account of the Neglect of the necessary repairs of Tanks & water Courses, the depredations of the Colleries & the very certain & destructive inroads of Elephants, which I have been repeatedly an Eye witness of, Estimated at	7933 . 1 23/32
Loss on Poonjah from the above Causes, & the entire desolation of three fine Villages Viz.^t^ Aneyputty, Woonjumputty & Colaporam	4100 . .
	15933 . 1 23/32

The above losses I have stated from the best & only Accounts I have been able to collect, but I will add that I do not put implicit faith in them, the two last mentioned Items in particular, I think must be exaggerated, yet it is not in my power to ascertain the precise truth

notwithstanding

Notwithstanding the pains I have taken to do it.

Outampollam Talook

Fusly 1199	Collected Poonjah		Chs. 7500
	Do Nunjah		23100
	& Sayer		3000
			33600
Do 1201	Collected		6461 " 8 11/64
		decrease	27138 " 1 53/16

The last mentioned decrease though so much is I think more easily accounted for than any other — as at the time of the Company's taking possession of this province the districts Cumbum & Goodellore formed part of it, and yielded from the account I have examined, a Revenue to the Circar of 12930 Chuckroms — immediately after the Garrison fell the Rajah of Travancore seized upon these places, which he has ever since held & collected the Revenue from them. —

the

the Records of your Board, Gentlemen, shew the repeated references that have been made on the Subject of Cumbum & Goodellore, & you will I trust Allow me to remark that had the Claim of the Travancore Rajah been ever so Strong, & well established, that he Acted in an unqualified & wrong manner in taking possession of these places without the Sanction of the British Government.— I cannot indeed yet discover that he has Substantiated his Claim to the Country, from every information I have received, the reverse is the Case to proved

Loss sustained by the Seizure of Cumbum & Goodellore	10930
Do the district of Hanamanta-pully which yielded a revenue of 4100 bulks of Paddy taken possession of by Appajee Gounden a turbulent & marauding Poligar	3370
	16300

16300

Pagoda & Bramany Enamo, Cavelgars
Feeo & Shoundrum } 1590.

Reduction of the Land Tax — 200

The undermentioned Villages which
yielded in July 1199 } 1509

Caroongaka Cotum
Coonoor
Goolenoor
Woopar pulty

Now yield nothing scarcely they have been entirely destroyed by the turbulent Poligars & Colleries at the bottom of the Vally and the Inhabitants have fled from them,

A very considerable loss also has been sustained from the Rajah of Travancore's People at Cumbum & Goodaloor having altered the Course of a fine River which formerly watered a large part of the Cumbumpottom Talook this loss is estimated at } 7539..1 53/64

27138..1 53/16.

From the Accounts now forwarded No. 12, 3 & 4. it would appear that the actual Collection from the Circar lands in Fusly 1200. were Gross

Fusly 1200. were Gross		60430 . 4 . 31/32
	Charges	12667 . 7 . 3/32
	Nett Collection	47762 . 7 . 7/8
1201 Gross		51652 . 8 . 17/16
	Charges	15347 . 4 . 5/16
	Nett Collection	36305 . 3 . 61/64
1202 Gross		52490 . 2 . 1/2
	Charges	11175
	Nett Collection	41305 . 2 . 1/2
1203 Gross		50469 . 9 . 5/8
	Charges	11005 . 4
	Nett Collection	39464 . 5 . 5/8

The Causes of decrease in the Revenue since the Company took possession of the district I have endeavoured to account for already in the Comparison drawn between the

the Collections in Fusly 1199 & 1201 & in the remarks subjoined to it. — How far the Comparison may prove Satisfactory to your Board I cannot say, — I am not well satisfied with it myself as I conceive that in many instances the Accounts taken are fallacious Notwithstanding the precautions I took to prevent deception. —

A conclusion indeed might be drawn that they are fallacious from the small profit arising to the renters which appears on the face of them. — To save you the trouble of a reference I will here again state the amount actually Collected the two last years. —

1202	Collected	41305 " 2/2
	Rent paid	35500 " "
	Renters profit	5805 " 2/2
1203	Collected	39461 " 5 5/8
	Rent paid	38650 " "
	Renters profit	714 " 5 5/8

It certainly is not to be supposed that Men would take farms in rent from which they derived such small profit & this Circumstance having struck me very forcibly I made use of every ~~exertion~~ exertion in my power to ascertain if there were any Means, which do not publicly appear from whence they could gain, or had gained Emolument: —

It is my duty to do so, but it is with regret that I state the information I have received, — I say with regret, because the past Evils are without remedy, & long Custom having introduced the practice, it has become a precedent, and in future the prevention of it, may be attended with some difficulty: — it is not in this district alone, but in most Others I understand, the practice prevails, & it is much to be wished that measures were adopted to do it away: —

I shall make known to you in a very few words, the exactions (for I can give them no Other term) of Renters

immediately after receiving Charge of their Farms: — The head Inhabitants of each Village are Called upon to attend at the Renters Catcherry; — they of course appear & are previously taught to suppose that Nuzzers are expected, to the protection of the Renter, & the Nuzzers are accordingly presented: — I am very credibly informed, but not from the head Inhabitants themselves (for they would never develope the fact) that Nuzzers to the amount of Six thousand (6000) each year were received by the Renters during the two last years: ——

The Second Exaction is from the Brammins Attached to the Pagodas in the Country: — but this is more to be tolerated than the former because the Brammins are Ultimately gainers they make considerable presents to the Renters, at which they amply reimburse themselves from the Donations made

Traded by those who attend. — in a word, I am convinced that even in this small district Nuzzers to the Amount of near Ten thousand Chuckrams are Annually Collected, —

It Only remains for me to State another Source of Emolument from which the renters have hitherto gained considerable profit & I shall then have nothing further to Offer to your Observation on the Subject. ——

The Companys Exchange in this district is settled at 15 ½ Cully fanᵐ ⅌ C.N. Pagoda & 17 ½ ⅌ S. Pagoda, the Bazar Exchange is 13 ½ ⅌ C.N.C. & 15 ½ ⅌ S.C. the Renters invariably make their payments in Pagodas which they Purchase at 13 ½ & 15 ½ so that they gain on each Pagoda 2 Cully fanams: — I have Calculated the amount gained the two last years. Viz^t

				S.C.
1202, on 35500. Chs	@ 15 ½	is		22903.10.40.
	@ 17 ½	is		20289.5.16
profit on the difference of Exchange to the Renters			}	2614.5.24

1203 — on 38650 ch. @ 15/8 — is — 24937 „ 22 „ 40

@ 17½ — is — 22093 „ 5 „ 32

profit on the difference of Exchange to the renters } 2844 „ 17 „ 8

Total Gain the two years £ — 5456 „ 22 „ 32

I have been thus particular in speaking of the exchange as I wish a remedy to be applied to prevent the Company from sustaining so considerable a loss, when any future arrangements may be made for renting out the Country. — As the Loss however is equally sustained by the payments from the Polygars & the Renters, you will be so good as to consider the following remarks as applicable to both. — It has been the Custom time out of mind to receive the Tribute from the Polygars in Chuckrams, in which nominal Coin the Renters Kist have also been settled since the Country has been rented out during the Companys Government — would it not therefore be attended with good effect to receive both from the Renters

Poligars their Kists or fanams or to settle with them to make their payments in Pagodas @ the Bazar Exchange" with the Poligars. I am aware it would be difficult perhaps impracticable to alter their established Custom of a Settlement in Chs. but Certainly not so with Renters: — however with the Poligars even, I am very sure a more beneficial mode of receiving their Tribute might be adopted. —

This might be brought about I think in the following manner: — when the annual Kists are fixed, the Poligars should be advised that their Tribute would not be received on account of the loss sustained by the Company except in the Coin in which it is specified Vizt. Chs. They must then pay in Chs. which Owing to the scarcity of fanams they would find it difficult to do, or accede to such Terms as would make good the loss now at present suffered — the

most

Most beneficial plan to assist however, in my Opinion, would be to draw a Medium between the Companys & Bazar Exchange & to settle the Lists of the Poligars at that Medium provided they make their payments in Pagodas.

I shall now speak of the Sayer Collections & I premise my Observations by offering it as my Opinion that they should be immediately rented out.

In 1200 the Collections from this branch of Revenue were	Cully Chs. 2261 - 1 19/32
" 1201	2924 " 3 29/32
" 1202	4120
" 1203	4500

from which it appears in the two last years the Collections have very much exceeded those of the two former years, and no Complaints are on the records of this Cutch- to prove that there has been any particular rigor exercised in the Collection of the Customs: — the Number of Chokees in each district is as follows —

in the Cusbah — 5.
Vatatatacondum — 4.
Pena Colum — 3.
Outampollam — 8.

The rates of Customs are fixed and delivered to the persons Employed to Collect the Revenue & I have every reason to believe that few if any Exactions have been made.—

Whether the Customs are rented or kept under the immediate Management of the Collector, I think it would be attended with good Effect to have the rates on every Article of Merchandize fixed up at each Chowkee & to hold out to Merchants the means of redress in the Event of any Exaction.—

⊗ I shall now beg leave to offer to your Consideration, some General remarks which I hope will prove Satisfactory.— It appears to me from all the information I have been able able to Obtain that after the Company took possession of this district the rates established for the Soorys were Just & Proper neither bearing too hard upon the Inhabitants, or giving up More to them than was necessary.— during

the

From mark this ⊗ to mark ✻ furnished to Mr Campbell Member of Board
Bd — 27th Sept 1826.

the Administration of Meer Saib, the mode of Assessment on the Poorjy was not by any Means so Oppressive as in that of his Successor Syed Saib:— in the former Government the Inhabitants were not assessed According to the Number of Koolies of Land which Might be Cultivated, but for the Quantity Actually Cultivated— Syed Saib at the Commencement of his Administration in Fusly 1198 fixed the Assessment @ 16½ fs. ⅌ Kooly on all arable Poorjy land which beyond a doubt was Oppressive, & Caused Considerable Emigration:—

In the Cultivation of Norjy I have discovered no Oppression in Syed Saibs time, & I think it would not be inexpedient to adopt a mode of Collection similar to his:— C/s Culums of Paddy ⅌ 100 were allowed to the Inhabitants as their Shoondrum:—

the remaining 93¾ Cullums were equally divided, One half falling to the Circar the Other to the Inhabitant: ——

In Fusly 1194.

	Chs.
Type Taxes Collected on Poonjy	80000
& on Nunjy of Paddy which at the rate it was then sold 6½ fs. ℱ Cullum — make	45000
Fusly 1194 Total Collections Chs.	125000
but in the two following years 1195 & 1196, on an Average only 45000 Chs. were Collected on Poonjy & the Emigration of the Inhabitants accounts for the decrease	Poonjy 45000
However on the Nunjy in Consequence of the equitable Assessment, Cultivation increased & there were Collected	Nunjy 55000
Fusly 1195/6. Average Collections Chs.	100000

Ch.

At the Commencement of Fusly 1197

Syed Saib rented out the Circar Lands for Ch^s 100000
& the Renters were unable to make good their
Payments this circumstance may be easily
Accounted for, when it is Considered that
a very large force was constantly kept up
in the District, which force was employed
in guarding the Country from the incursions
of refractory Poligars, & the depredations of
the Colleries in the Adjacent Districts.

I conceive it, Gentlemen, to be
my duty while speaking of the state of
this province to draw your attention to
the injury the revenue sustains from
the very small Number of Troops
which are at present stationed in it.
I will draw a Comparis between the
protection afforded to the Barra Mahal
& Dindigul, in the former there are
five Battalions of a Sepoys, it is certain

I believe, that there has been seldom if ever Occasion to employ troops in that province for the Collection of the Revenue but the very circumstance of so large a force being stationed in it is of itself sufficient to ensure the Tranquility of the Country: — It is also to be Considered that the Barra mahal is not from its Situation Subject to the inroads of Colleries, & that there are no Poligars in the District to molest the Inhabitants, & to impede Cultivation: —

The Dindigul District is remote & a frontier — Coimbatour, Darapooram & Caroor are situated to the West, North west & South west, Trichinop.y to the North & North East, Madura to the East & lastly Travancore to the Southward in the former part of this address I took Occasion to mention the loss sustained to the Revenue from the Conduct of the Rajah of Travancores people; & the depredations of the

Coll:

Collector of Madura and experience shews the inconvenience the Inhabitants have suffered from Our Vicinity to Coimbatour &c.a — but these circumstances are of little consideration, when compared with the injury sustained by the Inhabitants in Consequence of the refractory & Turbulent Conduct of the Poligars (of which there are twenty four) immediately situated in the District & Tributaries to the Company. — Scarcely a day elapses but that Complaints are made from every part of the Circar Lands of the people having suffered from the Poligars Adherents, — there are no means of Affording them redress, —

The Revenue of Course Suffers most materially from the last mentioned Circumstance; the inhabitants to avoid Oppression from the Poligars not unfrequently Quit the Circar Lands, & settle in the Pollams — where their property is more secure. —

— to resume the thread of my Narrative I have already remarked that the arrangement for the Poozy since the Company took possession of the District appears to me to be equitable but I have no hesitation in saying that in the

Hurry the Circar has suffered much Loss. & I cannot discover any reason for altering Syed Saibs Assessment; — he allowed in Fusly 1194 to the Inhabitants 6/4 Cullams of Paddy ℱ 100 as their Shokumarum & as I have before stated they were satisfied, & in the two following years, Cultivation increased & the revenue was augmented each year 10000 ~~pag~~ —

The present regulations are as follows — Forty (40) Cullams of Paddy ℱ 100 are allowed as Shokumarum & the remaining 60 are equally divided between the Circar & the Inhabitants; whereby it appears that the former receives but 30 & the latter 70 Cull^o. a great difference between Syed Saibs Assessment he received 46 5/8 ℱ 100 & the Inhabitants 52 7/8 —

I am well aware how difficult it would be to alter the present mode of Assessment in the Hurry; but I have no doubt that it might be done gradually, if proper measures were taken: ———

Since I have been employed in this district I have ever been anxious that the Circar Lands should be rented out to the ~~several~~ Inhabitants of each Taloch &

in December 1790 when the sole Charge of the Collections was placed in my hands — I endeavoured to impress them with an idea of the benefit that would arise to them from their concurrence in my Opinion, — but without Effect: — I very well know also that since that period my immediate Superior, Mr. Macleod has left nothing undone to make the same impression but he too has been Unsuccessfull. — I

I have nothing further to offer, Gentlemen to your Consideration on the Subject of the Circar Lands: if it should be your intention to rent them out the present year a very watchfull Eye ought to be kept over the Renters, to do which with effect a confidential Servant (a Tahseeldar) should be placed at the Cusbah of each Talook. & I think he allowance should be made ample, to insure his fidelity — if on the other hand you should determine upon keeping the Country in aumanee, the greatest circumspection will be absolutely

Necessary on the part of the Collector to prevent fraud for he must in fact be his own Amildar & Constantly on the Move throughout the Country. It may be necessary to add in conclusion, that I conceive the labour of Revenue Management particularly in the District the climate of which among the Hills is very Unhealthy, to be too Severe for the Constitution of any European: whatever may be your determination however I shall Cheerfully do my best to give Satisfaction & I have very little doubt, but that the expiration of the present Justy an accurate knowledge may be obtained of the real value of the Country & not sooner:

The Enclosure No 6 will shew you the Exact amount of Revenue drawn from the Pollams, before the district became Subject to the Company's

auth-

Authority, as also the Tribute since settled, to which I have subjoined some remarks Explanatory of the Cause of the decrease: in Fooly 1196 Syed Saib sequestered the Pollams of Pylney, Gopia naigue, & Macondum naigue, Palamocho Naigue Raumbadra Naigue, Sogany Naigue and Madoor Naigue, & you will perceive the immense difference that appears in the Collections from the pollams, in Consequence of the Sequestration: — in 1798 by Tippoo's Express Order, all the Poligars were dispossessed except four, Viz. Appaque Gounden, Yerra Cotta, Mamburra, & Yerasicca Naigue an Oppressive measure which had not a large body of Troops been kept up, & the greatest rigor at times exercised, must have been productive of Considerable loss to the Revenue: ——

I am

I am very far from thinking that the Poligars are not fully able to bear the present Assessment, on the Contrary I conceive that the Tribute they pay is rather less than they ought to do, particularly Villaida Naique of Tylney, & Appia Naique of Cannewaddy, the two principle Poligars in the district:— yet, however, I am apprehensive that no real benefit would result from an Endeavour to augment their Tribute, unless there were the means to enforce Obedience, & to protect the Country, in case it should be found necessary to sequester some of the Pollams:— we experience difficulty enough indeed, in collecting the Tribute already fixed, & some of the Poligars are at this moment one two & three years in arrear:— their particular Names are specified in the remarks of the Enclosure No. 6.——

(Dindegul
7. August
1797.)

I have the honor to be
Gentlemen
Your most Obedt.
humble Servant
(Signed) J. Wright
Asst. Collr.

To Robert Clerk Esquire
Secretary
Fort St George

Sir

Herewith I beg leave to transmit the Estimate of the Probable Receipts & Disbursements of this District for this month.

I am
Sir
your most Obedt. Servt.

Dindigul
5th August 1794

To Lionel Place Esqre.
Accountant to the Board of Revenue

Sir

Herewith I beg leave to transmit the Account of Demand, Collection & Balance from the 1 to the 12th of last month.

I am
Sir
your most Obedt.
humble Servant
(Signed) J. W.
Assist. Collr.

Dindigul
5th August
1794

To Wm Harington Esqr

Secy

Fort St George

Sir

I Herewith Transmit a Diary of my Proceedings in this District for last Month

Dindegul
4 Augt 1794

I am Sir
your most obedt Servt

To Lionel Place Esqre

Accountant to the Board of Revenue

Sir

You will be so good as to Observe that the Circar lands of this district being now in Aumanee, it will not be in my power to transmit an

acct.

Account of Demand, Collection & Balance except on the 25th of every month. —

It happens not unfrequently that the accounts from the interior parts of the district are not received at the Cutcherry before the 20th of the month. —

I am
Sir
Your most Obed. hum. Servt.
(Signed) J. H.
Asst Coll.

Dindigul —
5 August 1794 —

~~......~~

~~To~~ Hugh Vaughan Esqre.
Paymaster
Madura &ca.

Sir

I have ~~the honor to~~ acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1 instant, in reply to which I beg leave to inform you that it will not be in my power to advance a larger Sum than five thousand Pagodas (5000) for your September disbursements. —

In reply to the Precept of your Letter I beg to remark that I have not the authority to ask for a Guard consequently not the means to convey to you, with safety, the Cash I may be able to advance:— your agent informs me that he has the means; I shall therefore, with your permission always pay the money into his hands.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
your most Obed^t.
humble Servant
(Signed) J.W.

Dindigul
4th. August 1790.

To George Powney Esqre.
Collector of the Southern Peshcush
Tinevelly —

Sir,

A complaint has been made to me that Sawmey Naigue a Poligar under your Authority in the

Trichinopoly district has lately plundered the Village of Govindpoor in Yerra Cottah, that he has killed 2 men & wounded 7: during the last two years it is a Circumstance of Notoriety that Sauny Naigue has been constantly in the habit of Marauding in the Yerra Cottah & Varapatchee Pollams. I beg the favor of You therefore to take such Measures as may be Necessary to prevent any thing of the ~~kind~~ kind in future.—

Not only Sauny Naigue but Luchea Naigue of Trichinopoly & the Nattum Colleries are great disturbers of the peace of this district—

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obt.
Humble Servt.

Dindigul
5th August
1790—

(Signed) J.W.

To Lionel Place Esqr.
Acct. to the Board of Revenue

Fort St. George

Sir

Herewith I beg leave to transmit the Accounts of this District from the 1st to the 12th of last Month

I am
Sir
Your Mt. Obt.

Dindigul
12th Augt. 96

(Sd.) J. H.
Asst. Collr.

To Mr. Hawkins Esqr.
Paymaster at
Trichinopoly

Sir

I have the honor to send you a certificate for eight carriage bullocks which have been employed by you for my use

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obt.

Dindigul
13th Aug 1796

J. H.

To David Haliburton Esqr.

Acting President &ca. members of the

Board of Revenue —

Fort St. George —

Gentlemen

I beg leave to inclose a certificate given me by Mr. Inglis Surgeon to this Station, which will shew you, the absolute necessity there is for my immediately changing the for the recovery of my health. — I request accordingly that necessity obliges me to leave Dindigul at this juncture, but shall make such arrangements previous to my departure as will tend to prevent any inconvenience arising in my public business during my absence, which I hope will not exceed eight or ten days.

I am

Gentlemen

Your most Obedt.

humble Servant

(Signed) J. Wrangham

a Collr.

Dindigul

15th August 1794

D.o

82

To Robert Clerk Esq.re
Secretary

Fort St. George

Sir,

Herewith I beg leave to transmit the Estimate of the Probable Receipts & Disbursements of this District for this Month.

Dindigul
5th September 1794.

I am
Sir
Your most Obed.t
humble Servant
(Signed) J. Wrangham
A. Coll.r

To Lionel Place Esq.re

Accountant to the Board of Revenue

Fort St. George

Sir,

Your Letter of the 18th. Ultimo returning Accounts Current with the Renters & Poligars of this district which I transmitted to you on the 12th August last — reached me at Tanjore on the 25th Ultimo. — My bad state of health rendering it at the time impossible for me to leave that place, I sent directions to the Cutcherree at Dindigul to have the Accounts Current drawn out according to your wish, & I have now the honor to transmit them. —

I am

Sir

Your very Obed.t Ser.t

(Signed) J. Wrangham

Dindigul

7th Sep.r

1794 —

85.58

To Hugh Vaughan Esq.
Paymaster
Madura

Sir
I have this day returned from Tanjore whither I have been for the benefit of my health. Owing to a mistake on my part or on that of my Servants, the delay of the present remittance 3500 S. Pagodas has taken place. I have paid into your agents hand at this place S.Pag. 1500. both sums Amounting to S.P. 5000.

I take this occasion to mention that I have little doubt of being able to Comply with the whole of your Estimate for your October disbursements Viz. S.P. 7483

A Guard of a Naigue & Six Sepoys has Charge of the money.

Dindigul
9th Sepr. 1794

I am
Sir
Your most Obedt.
humble Servant
(Signed) J. Vaughan

To Lieutenant Colonel Cuppage

Commanding Dindigul

Sir,

I beg the favor of you to furnish me with a Naique & Six Sepoys to escort Money to Madura.

I have the honor to be

Sir your most very Obt. Sert.

(Signed) J. Wrangham

7th Sepr. 1794.

To Lionel Place Esqre.

Accountant to the Board of Revenue

Sir

Herewith I beg leave to transmit the Accounts of this district from 13th to 31st of July last.

The delay of the transmission of the Accounts up to the 31st July last has been occasioned by my absence from Dindigul; On a Surgeons Certificate I proceeded to the Coast for the benefit of my health on the 16th Ultimo.

I am

Sir

Your most Obt.

humble Servant

Dindigul

7th Sepr. 1794. (Signed)

J. Wrangham

To William Harington Esq.
Secretary to the Board of Revenue

Fort St. George

Sir

I herewith transmit a Diary of my proceedings in this district from the 1st to the 16th of last month — upon my return to Dindigul on the 7th instant the Letters received as inserted in the Diary after the 16th were delivered to me by the Peshcar

I have the honor to be
Sir
your most Obed.t Ser.t
(Signed) J. Wrangham
Ass.t Collector

Dindigul
10th Septem.r
1794

To David Haliburton Esq.r
Act. President &c.a Members of the Board of Rev.

Fort St. George

Gentlemen

I beg leave to inform you that I returned to Dindigul on the 7th Instant and that my health

never

ceived very considerable benefit from the late change of air -

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Letters under date 18th & 29th Ulto the former directing me to transmit a report upon the Annual Loss of Revenue consequent of the Exemption from taxes allowed the weavers & the latter accompanying Copy of your proceedings upon the report I had the honor to transmit to you on the 8th Ulto - I shall not fail to use my best endeavours to carry your Orders into implicit & speedy execution -

I have the honor to be
Gentlemen -
Your Most Obedient
humble Servant
(Signed) J. Wrangham Ac. Collector

Dindegul
the 6 September 1796 -

To George Powney Esqr.
Collector of Southern Peshcush
Tinnevelly -

Sir

I have this day been favored with your Letter dated the 26th Ulto - which informs me that a Complaint had been preferred by the Ramghery Poligar

of Attempts against Veirapatchy — I shall endeavour to arrive at the truth of Ramgherry's Assertion, though I have little hope of Succeeding — The records of the Cutcherry are filled with complaints against Ramgherry & Luckia Naigue Poligars now under your authority — if you can give me any hopes that redress will be afforded to the Complainants I will specify the particulars — for my own part, situated as we are in this district and forbidden to employ troops without the previous Sanction of Government I am only surprised that on the borders of each District we are so tranquil —

I take this occasion to mention that Luckia Naigue of Trichenpoly has lately taken possession of a Village (Coodoovadoy) in Valacondama Naigue Pollam & is building a small fort near it — this is a Circumstance of notoriety — If Luckia Naigue had any Claim to this Village it should in all Events have been made through a regular Channel — but from the information I have obtained his Claim is not founded —

proceeded in person — attended me to lay the [illegible]
of you to Enquire into the particulars ——

4th September 1796
Dindigul

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obed.t humble
Servant
(Signed) J. Wrangham —

To David Haliburton Esq.r
Acting President &c.a
Fort St. George

Gentlemen

It is with Regret that I am under the necessity of making known to you a Circumstance which for disrespect is I believe unparalleled in the Annals of the Company. I have had occasion frequently to Complain of the Poligars dilatoriness in making their payments, but I seldom ever had cause to Speak of their disrespectful Conduct.

Some days ago, I sent, as is customary, two Peshcar Peons to Appiaje Goundum & Demanded the Liquidation of his balances — he in reply sent me a Small bag tied & sealed & marked as if it contained money:—

the Contents of the bag however were Sand Gravel & some small dry Grain.

Rambaddara Naigue, another Poligar in the Valley has been guilty of an act of equal disrespect, he took upon himself lately to inflict corporal punishment on the Peons which were sent to demand payment of a balance due by him to certain Inhabitants and grossly insulted two Invalid Sepoys which were sent for the same purpose.

I have the honor to be
Gentlemen
Your Most Obt humble Sert
(Signed) John Wrangham Act Collr

22d September 1794

To Lionel Place Esqr
Accountant to the Board of Revenue
Fort St George

Sir

Herewith I beg leave to transmit the Accounts of this District for Last Month

I am
Sir
Your most Obedt Servt
(Signed) J Wrangham
Act Collector

Dindigul
25th Septr 1794

To William Harrington Esqr

Secretary to the Board of Revenue

Fort St. George

Sir

Herewith I beg leave to transmit two Bills drawn by the Paymaster at Madura on the Paymaster General in favor of the Board of Revenue, as follows

dated 9 Augt 1792 — Pags 1778-11-23
Do 3 Do — 6208-30-37

I am Sir

Your most Obedt Servt

Dindigul the 22 Septr 1792

Signed J. Wrangham
Ad Collector

To William Harrington Esqr

Secretary to the Board of Revenue

Fort St. George

Sir

I have received your letter of the 20th Instant, reminding me that an Account of Demand Collection & Balance ought to be forwarded to the Board by the 5th of every Month, & that a Duplicate should accompany the Accounts sent to

the

the Accountant's Office —

On the 5th Ulto. I inadvertently observed to Mr. Fi[…]
instead of making the Communication to the Board, that while the
Circar Lands of the district remained under Aumanee Managem[…]
that it would not be in my power to transmit an Account of De[…]
Collection & Balance except with the monthly Accounts, as it happe[…]
not unfrequently that the Accounts from the interior parts of the
district are not received at the Huzoor Cutcherry before the 20th
of the Month —

I am
Sir
Your most Obedient Servant
(Signed) J. Wrangham Asst. Coll.

Dindigul
25th September 1794

To Robert Clerk Esqr.
Secretary
Fort St. George

Sir,

Herewith I beg leave to transmit the Estimate of the
Probable Receipts and Disbursements of this District for this
Month —

I am
Sir
Your most Obedt. Servant
(Signed) J. Wrangham
Assistant Collector

Dindigul
5th October 1794

To Lieut. Col. Cuppage —

Commanding

Dindigul —

Sir,

I beg the favor of you to furnish me with a Naique & Six Sepoys to Escort money to Madura —

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most Ob. Ser.

Dindigul
1st Octo. 1794. (Signed) J. Vaughan
a. Colr.

To Hugh Vaughan Esqr.

Payr. of Madura

Sir, Under a Guard of a Naique & six Sepoys

I have the honor to send you three Thousand new Porto Novo Pagodas in part of your Estimate for your October Disbursements — Three thousand Pagodas were delivered to your Agent at this place on the 6th Instant both sums making six thousand. —

In the course of three or four days I hope to be able to comply with the whole Amount

of your Estimate, but the difficulty of Obtaining Pagodas for Gu... at this place is such that it frequently occasions delay which cannot well account for the present.

The above assigned reason leads me to apprehend that I shall not be able to answer any part of the Amount of your Estimate for your November disburse...

I am
Sir
Your Most Obed.t
humble Servant
(Signed) J Wrangham

Dindigul
the 7 October 1794

To David Haliburton Esq.re
Acting President &c.a Members of the
Board of Revenue
Fort S.t George

Gentlemen

I have in considerable forwardness now my report regarding the various points of information, required in your proceedings dated 25.th August, upon the report I had the honor to transmit to you on the 7 of that month, but the 30.th Paragraph of your remarks appearing to demand my earliest & most pointed attention, I

Immediately upon the receipt of your Orders I summoned the head Inhabitants of the district to the Cutchery, & have the satisfaction to inform you that I have at length prevailed upon them with the exception of the Inhabitants of Three to offer proposals for the rent of their respective Villages, for a period of five years, how far these proposals appear satisfactory to you, it is not for me to say, but you will perceive by the inclosed Abstract, that at the expiration of the fourth year the revenue of the Circar Lands of this district will be augmented in the rent from 38,500 Chuckrums the Sum they were farmed, for the last year, to 53881 Chuckrums — I have estimated the value of the three Villages, the Inhabitants of which do not offer proposals — they are marked in the Abstract thus (A)

— To avoid delay (which would be attended with inconvenience) should the proposals meet with your approbation, I beg leave to

transmit

transmit for your Consideration the form of
No. 2.
a Cowl Namah which I conceive would
be best adapted to simplify the terms
upon which the Inhabitants take their
Villages in Rent, & to ensure as fast as
possible the regular discharge ~~[illegible]~~ No. 3
of their Kists, also a Muchulkah,
which it might be expedient to take from
them upon the delivery of their Cowl Namahs

The above System being novel
& entirely what the Inhabitants had
hitherto been Unaccustomed to, I experienced
great difficulty in reconciling their
minds to the measure; but upon explaining
to them, that it had been resolved to revert
to the former decision of the Crops, & laying
open to their View the beneficial
Consequence that would immediately
result to themselves from their Concurrence
with your wishes, I obtained at first
their Slow, & Suspicious Consent
but I now say with Confidence that

their

their Suspicions are removed & that they are anxious for your early decision

I trust, Gentlemen, that I shall be excused in Offering again my Sentiments to your consideration regarding the farm of the Customs — if they are kept under management, I have no hope that they will yield much above One half of what they would, so were they rented — equal vigilance would be used to prevent abuses in either case, & I am — equal would be the Effect of that vigilance. — In the hope that you will Accord with me in this Opinion I have taken the liberty to subjoin a proposal which has been offered to me for the farm of the Customs for five years — if it does not meet with your approbation, you will I hope do me the Justice to suppose that I had no Other motive for

offering it to your Consideration than
any wish to be, as useful as I can to my
Employers, & my Conviction of the utility of
adopting it.

I take this occasion to acknowledge
the receipt of your Orders through
Mr. Secy. Harington dated the 30th Ultimo,
directing me to call upon Affgague
Goondeen & Shaumbunai Naique for
an Explanation regarding their
disrespectful Conduct. — I have already
done so, & shall have the honor, as soon
as I receive their answers, of
of transmitting them to you, together with
such other documents as you require to
Elucidate the facts. with regard however
to the disrespect of the former, I should
hope that there will no longer remain
any doubt in your minds of it,
when I assure you that the bag
which contained the Said Letter was

offered in the public Cutcherry at [illegible] presence, that it was tied up as bags of money usually are.

Just as I was upon the point of dispatching these accounts, two proposals were offered to me, for the farms of the three Villages marked A in the abstract, by two respectable Inhabitants of the district, Appiyar Pilly & Venatadoorai Pilly. — As I am deeply well convinced that the Inhabitants of the abovementioned Villages have some sinister view of pertinaciously refusing to take them in rent without assigning any plausible reason I am of Opinion that it would be attended with benefit to accept of the proposals which have been offered. — I enclose an abstract of them marked (No D) which you will perceive amounts to more than what I estimated their Value at in the abstract (No 1) I have the honor to be

Gentlemen

your most obt.
humble Servt.

8 October 1794 — (Signed) J. Wrangham
Collr.

To Lieut. Colonel Cuppage

Commanding

Dindigul

Sir

I beg the favor of you to furnish me with a Naigue & four Sepoys to Escort Money to Madura.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obt. Servt.

Dindigul
12th Octor. 1794. (Signed) J Wrangham
Ast. Collr.

To Hugh Vaughan Esqre.

Paymaster

Madura

Sir

Under Charge of a Naigue & four Sepoys, I have the honor to send you Porto Novo Pagodas (2591.8) two thousand five hundred & ninety one & Eight fanams which

which Compleats the amount of your Estimate for your October disbursements.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most Obed.t humble Servant
(Signed) J. Wrangham
A. Coll.r

Dindegul
12th October 1794

To David Halliburton Esq.re
Acting President & ca. Members of the Board of Revenue
Fort St. George

Gentlemen

1 I have now the honor to report the result of my enquiries upon the different points of information required by you in your proceedings dated the 25th August.

2 It appears that the Villages of Raumnadpoor, Lekalputtey, Sillanatum & Attamarlaputty appertained to the Circar during the Moorish Government but

but immediately after the district fell into the Company's possession the Poligars Palamootoo Naigue, Golup Naigue & Ammen-Naigue laid Claim to them. I cannot discover, however, that their Claims are very well founded & the public records of this Cutcherry do not produce any document which I can find to shew that the particular Claims of the Poligars were enquired into with the accuracy that might have been Necessary & upon Calling on the Poligars to produce any Vouchers in their possession to Substantiate their Claims I have received nothing but Unsatisfactory & evasive answers.

3 The Enclosure No. 1 is an Abstract which shews the Names of the Cavalgars who receive watching fees, & which also States the Number of Cheys, & Coolies, the Quantity of Paddy & dry Grain & the Sum in Cash received by Each.—

4 These fees are received by.

by the Circar for the particular Service of guarding the property of the Inhabitants within each respective Cowlly & it has ever been understood that the Cavalgar should make good every loss that might be sustained within the limits of his Cowlly; such losses indeed were made good formerly when there were the means of inforcing the Orders of the Circar, the difference now is but too apparent & too sensibly felt by all ranks of People.—
No. 2 are accounts particulars of Cavalgars fees.—

5 A Shooly is exactly 150 feet Square ~~feet~~, the average produce of which, in Seasons commonly favorable, is about 6 Cullums, No Artificial means are used to water the land which come under the denomination of Puttooch, Consequently it is impossible, but to speak generally on the Subject.—

6 Every precaution will of course be taken to prevent the baneful effects

of

of Collery depredations but the records of the Cutcherry evidently shew how difficult it is, to apply a remedy. — It is much to be regretted that since the Dindigul district fell under the Company's management that the means of Compelling the Poligars to make good the losses sustained have not been in the Collector's hands, & it has happened not unfrequently that when attempts have been made to Compel a restoration of Property stolen, that they were attended with still greater inconvenience to the Inhabitants. — The Orders of the Board on this subject have been explained in the fullest manner to the Poligars both by Letters & through their respective Vakeels & a Muchulka has been taken from each to effect if possible their Compliance with the Orders. —

My hopes, however, of any very beneficial effects arising from the Circulation of your Orders are not

very

very Sanguine, but every possible measure shall be adopted to inforce them No. 3 is a draft of a Sunnud which I conceive most applicable to the Subject, & which with your permission, shall be delivered to each Polegar at the time of settling their Peshcush for the present Fusly

8 You are pleased to remark that my Observation regarding the Polegars being a rude & uncultivated race of People is a General One; for that upon every occasion when their interests are concerned, they find means to explain themselves with great perspicuity: I regret exceedingly that I should have offered any Observation to your notice which did not merit your Attention, & you may be assured Gentlemen, that in future I shall be more guarded.

9 To enable a Collector to Ascertain fully & accurately by a

personal

but he has none; he says, however, that he will very readily give up all Claim to the Village, when the Rajah of Travancore restores the Villages of Cumbum and Goodalore to the Company. —

16 The Villages of Cavoongaha-Colum, Coonoor, Goobroor & Wooparpully were partly destroyed when the Company took possession of this district & have been totally so since, by the Ancore Colleries, aided by Bodee Naigue, Guitup Naigue, Appagee Gounden, & Yerrasamee Naigue, four Poligars at the bottom of the Vally of Dendigul, who have ever been Obstreperous & disobedient Subjects of the Company, & who I could wish to see punished as Examples to deter the other Poligars of this district from Similar Malpractices. —

17 In my report forwarded to the Board on the 7 of August, I Stated from the best information I could

Obt

Ultam, the loss which I conceived the Outampollam Talook had suffered by the Rajah of Travancores people having Altered the course of the River which watered a large part of it, & I have no reason to imagine that I was then deceived, the losses Estimated during the four years the Company has had possession of the district, at Cully Ch. 30.156, 7 5/16.

18. At the end of the 25th Paragraph of your Proceedings on my last report you Order me to refer to your letter of the 12th December last & to furnish the information therein required regarding the Revenue Officers as soon as possible — Every other point of information you require in the letter abovementioned I believe is now before the Board except the "Measurement of Lands" & regarding the Number of Hereditary Revenue Officers".

19. With respect to the former

it would be inexcusable in me to forward any information unless I was positively certain (which at present I am not) that what is before me now is authentic, at least Six Months will be necessary to obtain complete & satisfactory information on this Subject, & the measurement of the Land will be attended with some Expence to the Company.—

20th The Enclosures No. 6 are Account particulars of the Shahunderum which were Ordered to be transmitted in your letter of the 12th December, I have taken the accounts upon an Average in each Talook:— You will be so obliging however, to observe that the Shahunderum differs in a small degree in almost every Village.— No. 7 will shew the Annual loss of Revenue, in consequence of the weavers being exempted from Taxes by the Orders of Government.—

21st I must beg

your pardon but I really do not properly comprehend the Boards meaning regarding "the Number of Hereditary officers of the Revenue", unless you wish to be furnished with a List of the Naut Curnums belonging to the district whose Office is the only one I know of which can be termed Hereditary & indeed it Sometimes happens, & has happened in this province, that Naut Curnums are dispossessed of their Offices. —

21st I shall be particularly careful if it should fall to me to settle the present years Jeshauts that the Settlement be made at the bazar Exchange as ordered by the Board — The proposals of the head Inhabitants for Renting their respective Villages are tendered as I had honor of stating in the abstract I forwarded on the 8th instant at the bazar Exchange —

22 I have had already the honor of mentioning the difficulty I

apprehend there would be in acquiring a
fair knowledge of the Value of the different
Pollams, the difficulty however, will be
no Obstacle to my using my best
Endeavours to arrive at the information
& should it ever be in my power to Obtain
such as I can with any degree of
Satisfaction to my self, offer to the Boards
notice, I shall not fail to do it.

23 I take this Opportunity
of Stating to You that a Claim has been
laid before me by the widow of the
late Soparree Naigue of Deodanapetty
to that Pollam; which on the demise of
the former owner, was taken possession of
by Gopia Naigue, who has ever since
enjoyed the revenues of it, but who has been
extremely slow in making any
payments to the Company, & who is at
this moment in arrear upwards of
two Years Peishcush, amounting to
Cully Ch. C 453 & f. 6 — I should have

I submitted the Claim immediately on its being presented to your Consideration but thought it would be expedient first to enter into a thorough investigation of the Subject as I might otherwise unnecessarily take up your time. The best possible means to ascertain the truth, I conceived would be to take the ~~[illegible]~~ Sentiments of every Poligar in the district in writing, which I have done, & they to a man, agree that the widows Claim is a just one, that Gopia Naigue has usurped the management of the Pollam without any authority, & that the widow, or her nearest relation at her option, was legally Entitled to the Pollam — Should you determine to restore the Pollam to the apparently just owner, I take the liberty to mention that untill her authority is fully established, it will be necessary to Station at least One Company of

Sepoys

Sepoys, & an Officer, & One Gun at Deobanapetty. — Gopia Naigue has many armed Peons, & I have no doubt unless preparatory measures are taken to prevent it, that he will endeavour to resist Your Orders. ——

2d The Satisfaction You have done me the honor to express at the zeal & dispatch which I used in Collecting & arranging the information I forwarded on the 7th of August, I am particularly greatful for, & I trust that my future Conduct in every public Situation in which I may be placed under your Board, may meet with equal approbation. ——

~~To Colonel Fullarton~~

I have honor to be
Gentlemen
Your most Obedt.
humble Servant

Dindigul
13th October 1790

Signed/ J. Wrangham
Rev. Collector

To Colonel Cuppage

Commanding

Dindigul

Sir

I beg the favor of you to allow the Guard now over Treemangoody late Pradane of Vellaida Naigue to proceed with him to Sydney — There will be no Necessity for the Guards remaining with him after his arrival at Syney as I shall request of Captain Oliver to place One with him for the protection of his person.

I have the honor to be

Dindigul

Sir

15th October

Your most Obet

1790

humble Servt

(Signed) J. Wrangham

a Coll

To Captain Oliver

Commanding the Halcon

at Syney

Sir

Vellaida Naigue having informed me that the Accounts of

his

his late Minister Teevangoody are
unadjusted, & having requested that I would
send him to Ypey for the purpose of making
the Adjustment, I beg the favor of you
to take such measures as you may deem
most advisable for the protection of his
person & his family during the time he may
sojourn at Balasumdrum, at which
place it will be Necessary for him to
reside. — You will perceive by the
enclosed Muchulkah, which I have taken
from the Poligar, that preparatory Steps
have been adopted on the Subject, but
as I have little faith in his
Asseverations I deem it expedient
to address you as above. —

I have the honor to be
Sir,
your most Obt.
humble Servt.

Dindygul
15th October
1792.

Signed) J Wrangham
Collector

To William Harington Esq.re
Secretary —
Fort St George

Sir,

I Herewith transmit a Diary of my Proceedings in this district for last month. —

I am
Sir,
Your most Obed.t Ser.t

Dindigul
10.th October 1794.

(Signed) J. Wrangham
A.t Coll.r

To Lionel Place Esq.r
Accountant to the Board of Revenue
Fort St George

Sir

Herewith I beg leave to transmit the Accounts of this district for last Month. —

I am Sir
Your most Obed.t Ser.t

Dindigul
25.th October 1794.

(Signed) J. Wrangham
A.t Collector

To David Haliburton Esqr.

Acting President & c. Members of the Board of Revenue

Fort St. George –

Gentlemen

I have been prevented from replying sooner to your Orders dated the 30th Ulto regarding the Misconduct of Appajee Gaunden & Raumbudra Naigue, on Account of these men having delayed thus long answering the questions I put to them on the Subject — The Enclosures No. 1 & 2 are Copies of their Answers to which I have subjoined in English the substance of what I conceive to be their Meaning — I am not sufficiently acquainted with the Malabar Language to make a literal translation —

I am so anxious that these people should be brought to punishment that I think it my duty to offer to your Consideration a short remark upon the Answers of both — Appajee Gaunden says "that " the balance of 110 Chs. due by him on Account of his last " Years Kist he declined paying, as a Sum to that Amount " was extorted from him during the Tahsildarship " of Comarapilly & Apporo Moodeliar —

Comara Pilly is now at this place & denies the Charge. Appoo Moodeliar is not here. — The Assertion carries with it I think a degree of improbability, as Appagee Goundan during the time these men were employed under Mr Macleod in Collecting the Polygar Peshcush had always the means of redress open to him. — Admitting however what he asserts to be true he acted unwarrantably in not immediately obeying my Orders and Acknowledging as he does that his Shroff did send the bag of Sand, & after hearing that I had Complained to you of his Offence, his Voluntarily sending 120 Pls. as a fine, to the Cutchery are tacit Acknowledgements that he was not unacquainted with the Occurrence.

With regard to what Raumchudra Naigue states in his reply (No 2) of the misconduct of the invalid Sepoys, I put no faith in it. I cannot discover although I have taken some trouble that the Sepoys did behave ill & indeed I should very slowly give Credit to a Charge of this kind brought against them, as the aged men have ever since they were stationed in this district been particularly careful, & as far as they are able attentive to any little duties they have

been

been employed upon. —

The Enclosures No. 3 4 & 5 are the depositions of the Sepoys, Peons & the Companys Shroff & I beg leave to add my testimony to the truth of the Shroff deposition. —

Should you deem it expedient to recommend to Government that Appagee Gaundun & Raumbudria Naigue be punished for the offences which appear against them, I shall request permission to point out other Tributaries in this district, which (although they have not offered a public insult to the Companys authority) are equally deserving of punishment, on account of their extreme backwardness in fulfilling their Engagements with the Company.

I have the honor to be
Gentlemen
Your most obedient
humble Servant
J Wrangham
Asst Collector

Dindigul
27th October 1794 —

To Robert Clerk Esqre
Secretary
Fort St George

Sir,

Herewith I beg leave to transmit the Estimate of the Probable Receipts and Disbursements of this District, for this Month.

Dindigul
5th November 1792.

I am
Sir,
your most Obedt Servt
Signed J. Wrangham
Collector

To Robert Clerk Esqre
Secretary
Madras

Sir,

I have received your letter of the 21st ultimo, & beg the favor of you to offer my thanks to the Right Honble the President in Council for my appointment to the Collectorship of Dindigul.

Dindigul
4th November 1792

I am
Sir
your most Obedt Servt
J. Wrangham
Collr.

To Lionel Place Esqr.

~~Accountant Country~~ to the Board of Revenue

Fort St. George

Sir

Herewith I beg leave to transmit the Acc[ounts]

of this District for last Month

I am Sir

Your Most Obt. Servt.

Dindigul

25th November 1794

To William Harington Esqr.

Secretary to the Board of Revenue

Fort St. George

Sir

Herewith I beg leave to transmit three Bills drawn

by the Paymaster at Madura on the Paymaster General in [favor]

of the Board of Revenue as follows

10th September 1794	Star Pags.	5000
13th October Do.	Do.	5225.33.69
15th Do. Do.	Do.	1742.18.77
	Star Pags.	11968.10.66

Dindigul

25th November 1794

I am Sir

Your Most Obt. Servt.

To John Mitford Esqr.
Accountant to the Board of Revenue.
Fort St. George.

Sir

I have just received your letter of the 26th Ulto. inclosing an Extract from the Proceedings of a Board of Audit dated 22d November, and I lose no time in giving the required Explanation. —

The two extra writers Charged for in my Accounts Current for May June July and August were Employed in the Office when I received charge of it on the 9th of May, and I had no Authority for Discharging them; — on referring to the records of the Office I find that Mr. Macleod was Authorized on the 25th September 1793 in a letter from Mr. Secy. Harington to employ two Additional Writers for the purpose of expediting the Copies of certain Statements, required by the Board. — I beg leave to add that since the 9th of May I have had full Employment for these writers & should be much at a loss without their Assistance: —

On referring also to the Accounts Current preceding those forwarded by me under the head of Sadirwarid I find a monthly Charge for Stationary: — this I conceived to be Sufficient Authority for me to make the charge, particularly as there was no Stationary in the Office, and my business

must have been at a Stand had I not purchased the quantity required —

I beg the favor of you to make the abovementioned Circumstances known to the Revenue Board, who I trust will allow me to charge for the Stationary I may be under the necessity of purchasing in future. —

I shall be careful to debit the Renters for the Charges Collection during the period the district was in Aumanie —

I am
Sir
Your most Obt. Servt.
(Signed) John Wrangham —

Dindegul
4 December 1796.

To Edward Saunders Esqre.
President &ca. Members of the Board
of Revenue —
Fort St. George

Gentlemen,

I have now the honor of replying to your letter of the 30th. October, & of laying before you such information as you directed me to procure in your proceedings dated the 3d.

In obedience to your Commands immediately after the receipt of the former letter, I ordered the head Inhabitants who

had

had given in proposals for the farm of their respective Villages, to attend me:— they forthwith Complied, and I delivered to Each Proposer the Coule Namah which I had translated into Malabar, with my own Seal & Signature affixed to it:— I was particularly careful in explaining verbally also to the Members the tenure upon which they were to hold their farms, & after warning them of the Consequences that would attend a failure in any of their Engagements, & being convinced that they perfectly understood the Nature of them, I took their Muchulkahs or obligations in which was recited at length the Sense of the Coule Namah, & I have the pleasure to add that I entertain little doubt of their being as punctual as they can in the performance of their duty.—

The Periods fixed upon for the payment of the kists are as follow Vizt.—

12t	Novr 1792	1t Kist
12t	December	2d Do.
12t	January	3d Do.
12t	February	4t Do.
12t	March	5t Do.
12t	April	6t Do.
12t	May	7t Do.
12t	June	8t Do.
12t	July	9t Do.

So

So that the last kist becomes due on the last day of the Fusly year. — It may be necessary for me however to mention that it is not my intention to be very pressing with the Renters for the discharge of their first & second kists, as I perfectly well know that they are all needy, & were I to be very urgent, that they must be under the necessity of Borrowing money for the discharge of them, a measure which I shall, as far as lies in my power, most certainly endeavour to prevent. — the Poonjah Crop is now on the Ground in great Luxuriance, & promises to be very productive, a little forbearance untill it is gathered in, will I am sure be attended with good Effect. — afterwards I shall hold the Renters strictly to the liquidation of their kists on the particular day specified in their Muchulka for the payment of them. —

15 In conformity to your Orders I shall retain the Sayer under my own management, & shall on a future day submit to you the regulations under which I propose to conduct them, — I should take this occasion to offer my Sentiments on the

subject

subject of the Customs to your Consideration, but I have not obtained such information as I could wish, & it is my intention previously to my making any Communication regarding them to visit every Chokee in every part of the Circar Lands of the District, by which I may be enabled to ascertain more accurately, whether any abuses have existed or do at present exist, & also whether there are any duties which bear hard on the Inhabitants, & ought in Consequence to be reduced.—

Upon the receipt of Mr. Secretary Harington's letter enclosing Extracts from your proceedings dated the 3d. Ultimo— I lost no time in endeavouring to procure the information you required, & if the delay in the transmission of it, should appear to you great, I have duty to assure you that it has not arisen from neglect, on my part but entirely from the procrastination of the Natives, from whom I was necessitated to gain it.—

The Enclosures No. 1 are Copies & translations of the answers of Golup Naique, Palamoshoo Naique, Ammee Naique, to my applications, in which I called

upon.

upon them respectively, to produce the documents upon which they founded their Claim to the Village of Naumnatpoor, Ellapully, Polanalum & Allamarhapully — you will perceive that in their replies the Poligars produce no kind of Document to Substantiate the Claims they pretend to have upon these Villages, & that they Confine themselves to simple assertions: — they answered Me Nearly to the same Effect when applied to on a former occasion. —

You are pleased to Call upon Me for my Opinion on the above Subject: — I have founded it upon the best oral information I can procure from the principle Inhabitants of this place & it leads Me to believe that these Villages were, during the Moorish Government, Considered as appertaining to the Circar, that the Poligars, who now possess them have no legal right, & Consequently that the Villages ought, in justice, to be resumed: — the Inhabitants of the Villages, however having since the Company took possession of this district considered themselves as

Subject

subject to the sole authority of the Polegars, will I doubt not upon their resumption, retire to the Pollams & settle elsewhere;— but should it be your determination to have them resumed, I shall be careful to take every possible precaution to prevent it.

The Enclosures No. 2. are accounts shewing the Maniums or Enams granted to Pagodas, Bramins, Naut Curreniis, & the Begumpoor Mosque in land & Grain, with the Average amount arising from both, annually, in Money — were I to offer an opinion regarding the Claims of the Bramins to so considerable an alienation of Revenue, I should not hesitate to say that they are a race of People who I conceive have no Claim upon the Bounty of Government, on the Contrary that they are (particularly those who have the care of the Pagodas) generally speaking, the most useless, & most troublesome, subjects in the district:— so much however, have they over the minds of all Classes of people that it would be impolitic, perhaps dangerous the attempt to reduce the present established Maniums;—

and indeed when we look back (as I have on former Occasion had the honor of making known to the Board) we find that the Manium Enjoyed by the Bramins in former years in this district very much exceeded what is allowed at present. — The Naut Curnums are very useful people; & as far as I am able to judge are well entitled to the priveleges they enjoy. —

The Maneum granted to the Begumpoor Mosque of about 300 Ch^s. yearly; — this allowance was granted by Tippoo to a Faquir who has Charge of the Mosque, & the [illegible] of Shummerudeen Cawn's Mother who was interred there: — The Mosque is situated in a fine Coconut Garden near to the Southern side of the Dindigul Rock, & the Faquir subsists himself & his dependents upon the produce of the Garden. —

In your proceedings of the 3d. ultimo You do me the honor to say that you have every Confidence in my Exertions to obtain the information required in regard to the true Value of the different Pollams: — it would be unpardonable in me and I should abuse that confidence were I to lay the Enclosure No. 3 before you as a true and accurate account; — it is however the most accurate

that

that I have been able to procure; & the persons employed by me in obtaining it are men in whom I put some trust. ——

I am well convinced, that the actual amount of Revenue stated in the account as Collected from the Pollams (vizt. nearly Ch^s. 16250) is below the Sum Collected: — In the remarks which I have subjoined to the account, I have particula= =rized such Poligars as I think would well bear a higher assessment, but I have much apprehension that any attempt to carry the measure into Execution would be ineffectual, unless a preparatory step, such as awing the Poligars with the appearance of a small body of Troops under Canvas were taken.

I have no hesitation in offering it as my Opinion that the Pyney Poligar has been assessed too low, hitherto, although it is to be remarked that his Country has suffered very much during the last 3 years on account of the great scarcity of rain: — the present Season has been uncommonly favorable, but I doubt if the Pollam will produce near what is stated in the account as having been formerly Collected: — indeed during the time it was kept in amannee by Syed Saib, I can not discover that it ever yielded to the Circar above 20000 Ch^s. yearly. ——

The Jagoody Poligar is the uncle of Vellama Naigue of Pyney, & a Tributary of his Nephew since I first came into this district there have been constant feuds & dissensions between the two families, & some blood has been shed, but I have every reason to believe that the Pyney family has in general been in fault — I had occasion a very short time since to go to Pyney, & in proceeding thither I was met by the Jagoody man: — he complained much of the oppression he suffered from his Nephew, and earnestly intreated that he might be allowed to pay his Tribute immediately to the Company & that he might consider himself as under the Company's protection. —

Vellama Naigue on the day following upon being questioned urged that his uncle was much indebted to him, & had shaken off entirely his authority. —

I have no doubt but that both are in fault but that the Pyney man is most so, & I take the liberty to recommend that in future Jagoody be made to pay his tribute immediately to the Company — if this measure however, takes place, a proportionate

reduc

reduction must be made in the Pyney Peshcush.—

The Enclosures C. D are Copies of Letters, attested by the head people of this Cutcherry, from every Poligar in the District, Containing their Sentiments regarding the Claims of the widow of Soojanee Naigue, late Poligar of Deedanapully to the Succession to that Pollam; — I have made a translation of one of them, but they are all nearly to the same Effect. ——

Gopa Naigue who is at present in possession, is without exception the most refractory man in this District; — he is above two years in arrear of his tribute, & it is with much difficulty that I can have any Communication with him, or that I can keep him within the limits of his own Pollam, indeed I have this day received information that he has marched from Deedanapully to Vadagerry with a body of 300 armed men which can not be for any good purpose — I shall Conclude my remarks regarding him with recommending that he be dispossessed of his Pollam — the measure would alarm the rest of the Poligars & their next Settlement would

be

be effected with more facility than it would otherwise be. —

The Enclosure No. 5 is Copy of my Summons to Bodee Naigue directing him to account for his Conduct in having demolished the Village of Woonjaupully, together with a Copy & translation of his reply thereto. —

In the 13th Paragraph of my address to the Board under date the 13th October I mentioned that the Villages of Aundypully & Kolapooram were found nearly destroyed when the Company last took possession of the district: — upon further enquiry I find that the desolation was occasioned by the Emigration of the Inhabitants which belonged to them, who fled on account of an ~~[illegible]~~ oppression during Syed Saib's Administration into the Pollams of Gundeh Naigue, Bodee Naigue, & Appagee Gounden, & have not since returned.

The Enclosure No. 6 is Copy of my Summons to Appagie Gounden regarding the Village of Hanamuntapully & Copy of his reply thereto. — Regarding the desolation of the Villages of Carongatalcolum, Coonoor, Gootanoor, & Woopparpully, I have not been able

obtain any other Information, than what is already before the Board, or to procure any written documents in the form of a deposition from the Inhabitants, it would be necessary for me to repair to the head of the Valley for the purpose, & even then I doubt if I could assemble the Inhabitants to take their depositions dispersed as they must now be among the Pollams: — The weak state of my health rendered it unadvisable for me to go among the Hills, where I lately contracted my disorder, & I hope the Board will receive this as a sufficient Excuse for my non-compliance with their orders on the last mentioned Subject: —

It remains with me now to reply to that part of your proceedings wherein I am directed to ascertain & report upon the rights of the respective Poligars to the Pollam which each holds. —

To ascertain with accuracy the legal rights of the present holders of the Pollams it would be necessary for me to refer back to the history of the Country, if such a one is to be found for several hundred years: —

No.

no such history is Extant, I believe, & all information that I could now arrive at on the subject, would be from conversation with the Natives, & their knowledge, they must have arrived in the same way from others: — it is almost unnecessary to add that the Right by which each Poligar at present holds his Pollam is the Sunnud of the Collec[tor]

Before I conclude this address, I Consider it my duty to particularize the nam[es] of such Poligars as I am convinced merit the displeasure of the Government. —

Gopa Naigue the first. — I have already stated my Sentiments of him. —

Appaya Goundens Character I ha[ve] endeavoured to make known to the Board als[o] in the report of Poligars (Enclosure No. 3) you will perceive the stated Sum Collected in his Pollam is 2000 Chs — he pays to the Company 550. —

Bodee Naigue is troublesome, refractory & extremely disrespectful. — he is also in the habit of turning to his own use the water of a river which should run

through

through the Outamppollam Talook, by which the Country has suffered much. —

Ramumdra Naigue. I have lately had occasion to write about to the Board, — he is not in arrear, but his Conduct is in the highest degree disrespectful, & his Adherents are the constant disturbers of the Tranquility of the Parua Colum Talook. —

Guntupp Naigue. — he is not in arrear but his Conduct is of a Similar stamp to the last mentioned. —

The above mens Pollams are situated at the head of the Valley, & all Jom: — relying on the Security of their strong holds, they plunder & maraud, they are disrespectful, & Conceive that their Conduct will be allowed to pass on with impunity, as it has hitherto done — I take the liberty therefore offering it as my Opinion that they merit the most severe displeasure of Government. —

Veerapatchee: — the Polligar who holds this Pollam is in arrear of his Peshcush three years, which it is to be supposed, would appear a sufficient Cause for dispossessing him, but I would recommend a little

forbe-

forbearance: — till within the last twelve Month, there was little or no Cultivation through out his Pollam, owing to the misconduct of his Managers: — He manages now his own Manager, & I have not seen any where a Country in a higher state of Cultivation than it is; — within the last month I have had occasion to pass through it, four times, & the Poligar gives me every assurance that he will use his best endeavours to pay up his whole arrear by the end of the present [illegible]

Palamcotta Naique is in arrear one half of his last years Tribute; — this poor Man is deprived of his reason, but has lucid Intervals; — he is very young however & may perhaps in time get the better of his Calamity, till when it would I think be an act of Charity to take possession of his Pollam & to manage it for him: — at present it is almost desolated owing to want of Management. —

Mavoor is in arrear the whole of his last years Kists: — he is the only Poligar in this District that has obeyed my Summons to attend at the Cutcherry

he came to me ten days ago, with Confidence, & upon being Questioned regarding his arrear he urged in excuse the great scarcity of rain, and gave a Muchulkah promising to liquidate the whole of it in two months. —

The Enclosure No. 7 is an Estimate of the Expence which I conceive would attend the measurement of the Circar Lands of this district. —

I take this Occasion to inform you that Veerabuttrummy Naigue the man I have kept in Confinement, by your authority, for some months past, effected his escape the Night before last from the Guard of Company's Sepoys under which he was placed — it is a circumstance which gives me not the smallest Uneasiness, as the Poligars of the district are now I believe well Convinced of the insignificance of his Character. — I have however, thought it proper to warn them against giving him refuge in any of their Pollams. —

Dindegul —
5th Decr. 1794. —

I have the honor to be
Gentlemen
Your most Obt. —

(Signed) J. Wrangham
Collr.

To Robert Clerk Esq.re
Secretary
Fort St. George

Sir

Herewith I beg leave to transmit the Estimate of the Probable Receipts & Disbursements of this district for this month.

I am
Sir
your most
Obed.t Serv.t
(Signed) J. Wrangham
Coll.r

Dindigul
5th Dec.r 1794

To William Harrington Esq.r
Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Fort St. George

Sir

I herewith transmit a Diary of my Proceedings in this District for the Month of October & November last

I am Sir
Your Most Obedient Serv.t
(Signed) J. Wrangham
Collector

Dindigul
the
15 December 1794

To John Mitford Esqr.

Accountant to the Board of Revenue.

Fort St George

Sir.

Herewith I beg leave to transmit the Accounts of this District for last Month

I am Sir

Your most obedt Sert

Dendegul
13th December 1794

(Signed)

To William Harington Esqr.

Secretary to the Board of Revenue

Fort St George

Sir

Herewith I beg leave to transmit a bill drawn by the Paymaster at Madura on the Paymaster General in favor of the Board of Revenue, for Star Pags. 514. 31. 14 - dated the 14th instant

I am Sir

Your Most Obedt. Servt.

Dendegul
13 December 1794

To John Mitford Esqr.

Accountant to the Board of Revenue.

Sir I herewith transmit the accounts of this district for the Month of November.

You will perceive a Charge in the Account Current under the head of "Repairs of Tanks &c." — I am aware that this may appear objectionable & indeed it was not my intention to have made the Charge had I remained in this Situation: — I will briefly state my reasons for having taken upon myself to repair the Tank in question without the Sanction of the Board: — At the Commencement of the present Monsoon, I was eye witness to the immense quantity of water that was lost by the want of repair to a Tank in the vicinity of this Pettah, which Tank during the dry months is of most essential Service to the Inhbts. a Reference to the Board would have been attended with delay. and the opportunity of filling the Tank lost. — I intended by a trifling assessment on the Inhabitants to have reimbursed the Company for the Expence of the repairs but being now about to quit the Station cannot execute what was my intention

Under the head of "Charges extraordin[ary]" You will perceive that I have paid a Bill to Captn. Oliver

for

for feeding four of the Company's Elephants at Cyney at the request of my predecessor Mr Macleod. I recollect the Circumstance well, & that Mr Macleod received instructions from Government to advance money for feeding them while they remained near him, on their road to the Commissioners on the Malabar Coast.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedt Servt.

Dindigul
18 December

(Signed) John Wrangham

To William Harington Esqr.
Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Fort St George

Sir,

Herewith I beg leave to transmit a Bill drawn by me on Mr Alexr Macleod in favor of the President &ca Members of the Board of Revenue for Star Pagodas 10,[illegible]

I shall deliver to Mr Lynch on his arrival here a Second Bill of Exchange of the same tenor & date.

I am Sir,
Your most Obedt. Servt.

Dindigul
20th Decr 1794

(Signed)

DJ
R

Block
Rack No.
Shelf No.
Serial No.
General No.